AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of routing a text message to an alternate destination associated with a called party where a first destination is unavailable comprising the steps of:

storing and maintaining a database of ~~customer-provided~~ information provided by the called party including:

[[an]] a plurality of alternate ~~destination~~ destinations associated with a

plurality of different types of alternate destination devices; ~~and corresponding~~

routing information corresponding to each alternate destination; and

text formatting information associated with each ~~type~~ of the plurality of

different types of alternate destination ~~device~~ devices;

receiving a call to the first destination associated with a called party initiated by a calling party, wherein the first destination is unavailable;

based on the unavailability of the first destination, requesting a voice message from the calling party;

receiving the voice message provided by the calling party;

converting the voice message into a text message;

searching the database to locate [[of]] routing information ~~associated with a plurality of~~ ~~alternate destination communication devices for a respective plurality of subscribers, the routing~~ ~~information comprising a directory number and the~~ and text formatting information particular to

~~each type of communication device~~ at least one alternate destination device selected by the called party;

retrieving the routing information and the text formatting information from the database for [[an]] the selected alternate ~~communication~~ destination device associated with the alternate destination of the called party;

formatting the text message in ~~an appropriate~~ the text format required by the at least one selected alternate destination device; and

forwarding the formatted text message to the alternate destination associated with the selected alternate destination ~~communication~~ device of the called party.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of alternate destination ~~communication~~ devices are capable of receiving text messages.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the plurality of alternate destination ~~communication~~ devices can be any one of a paging device, a mobile telephone, an electronic mail device, a facsimile machine, a modem, or a computer.

4.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving additional information from the calling party.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the additional information comprises routing information of the ~~second~~ alternate destination associated with the called party.

6.   (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the additional information comprises an identification of the calling party.

7.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the requesting step is performed in response to a Busy/No Answer trigger.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving routing information of the alternate destination from the called party.

9.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of disconnecting the calling party after receiving the voice message provided by the calling party.

10.   (Cancelled).

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a personal identification number, wherein the personal identification number determines which one of the plurality of alternate destination communication devices comprises the alternate destination.

12.   (Currently Amended) A system for routing a text message to an alternate destination associated with a called party where a first destination is unavailable comprising:

a first switch for receiving a call to a first destination associated with a called party initiated by a calling party, wherein the first destination is unavailable;

a network element, coupled to the first switch, for requesting a voice message from the calling party based on the unavailability of the first destination and receiving the voice message provided by the calling party; and

a voice recognition means, coupled to the network element, for converting the voice message to a text message based on determining an appropriate text format required by the alternate destination;

a database for retaining and selecting customer-provided information provided by the called party including one or more a plurality of alternate destinations associated with a plurality of different types of alternate destination devices, and their corresponding routing information associated with each type of a plurality of alternate destination communication devices device associated with a respective plurality of subscribers, the routing information for each communication device including:

a list of directory numbers for corresponding alternate destination communication devices;

formatting information for the corresponding alternate destination communication devices, the formatting information comprises an appropriate text format required for each communication device selectable as the alternate destination and retrieved by the voice recognition means; the system further comprising

a second switch, coupled to the network element, wherein the network element forwards the appropriately formatted text message to [[the]] at least one alternate destination associated with selected by the called party via the second switch.

13.   (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the network element comprises a service node.

14.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein the alternate destination is a communication device capable of receiving text messages.

15.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 14, wherein the communication device can be any one of a paging device, a mobile telephone, an electronic mail device, a facsimile machine, a modem, or a computer.

16.   (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the network element further performs the function of receiving additional information from the calling party.

17.   (Original) The system of Claim 16, wherein the additional information comprises an identification of the calling party.

18.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 16, wherein the additional information comprises routing information of the alternate destination associated with the called party.

19.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein the network element receives routing information of the alternate destination from the called party and stores the routing information in the database.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein the network element disconnects the calling party after receiving the voice message provided by the calling party.

21. (Cancelled).